

**TO:** Board Members

**THROUGH:** Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

**FROM:** Kathleen Ligon, Senior Policy Analyst, Governmental Relations

**DATE:** November 28, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Water for Texas 2017 Conference

## **ACTION REQUESTED**

Briefing and discussion on the *Water for Texas 2017* conference.

## **BACKGROUND**

January 23-25, 2017, TWDB is hosting the *Water for Texas 2017* conference at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center in Austin to showcase innovative solutions to water challenges.

## **KEY ISSUES**

The conference will kick off with a welcome reception at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 23 and will follow with two full days of moderated panel discussions and presentations, workshops, exhibits, remarks, and keynote addresses.

On Tuesday, January 24, Comptroller Hegar will deliver a luncheon keynote address on the importance of water to the Texas economy, the state's general financial condition, and the biennial revenue estimate for 2018-2019. On Tuesday afternoon, Evan Smith with the *Texas Tribune* will moderate a discussion on water policy issues before the 85th Texas Legislative Session with Senator Charles Perry and Representatives Larson and Lucio III.

During the banquet on the evening of January 24, the TWDB will:

- recognize prior Board members for their service to the agency;
- present a grand prize award celebrating ten years of the agency's Rain Catcher rainwater harvesting competition and recognition program; and
- present the inaugural round of Innovative Water Supply awards in three categories: technology, conservation, and education

### **Our Mission**

To provide leadership, information, education, and support for planning, financial assistance, and outreach for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas

### **Board Members**

Bech Bruun, Chairman | Kathleen Jackson, Board Member | Peter Lake, Board Member  
Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

Roy Spence, co-founder and chairman of the award-winning creative agency GSD&M, will deliver keynote remarks on innovative leadership during the banquet.

On Wednesday, January 25, Dr. Leroy Chiao, Commander of the International Space Station, will deliver a morning keynote address on effective problem solving and water use and reuse in space.

Other conference session topics will include:

- The economics of implementing desalination projects
- The potential for direct potable reuse in Texas
- Challenges and solutions to employing aquifer storage and recovery
- Agricultural water conservation success stories
- The future of groundwater law
- Changing behaviors to improve water conservation
- Flood preparedness, planning, and response
- And others

Educational workshops hosted by TWDB staff will cover groundwater, flood issues, rainwater harvesting, water loss, and financial assistance. Staff will also demonstrate new interactive technology developed by the agency, including TexMesonet, TexasFlood.org, Water Data Interactive, and the interactive state water plan.

We currently have three diamond-level conference sponsors, five platinum, two gold, four silver, and five sponsors at other levels.

Conference information is updated regularly on our website at <http://waterfortexas.twdb.texas.gov/index.asp>. We are confident it will prove an exciting and informative event.